THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A substrate treating solution for imparting hydrophobicity to a substrate comprising an aqueous mixture of a C1 to C4 alkyl siliconate compound and a silicate compound, with the compounds being present in combination in amount effective to increase hydrophobicity of the substrate after the solution is applied thereto.

2. The solution of claim 1 wherein the siliconate compound is an alkali metal alkyl siliconate and the silicate compound is an alkali metal silicate, with the silicate and siliconate compounds being present in a molar ratio of about 0.5:1 to 10:1.

3. The solution of claim 1 wherein the siliconate compound is a alkali metal methyl siliconate and the silicate compound is an sodium or potassium hydrosoluble silicate, with the silicate and siliconate compounds being present in a molar ratio of about 1:1 to 5:1.

4. The solution of claim 1 wherein the siliconate compound is a sodium or potassium methyl siliconate and the silicate compound is an sodium or potassium ortho or meta-silicate, with the silicate and siliconate compounds being present in a molar ratio of about 2:1 to 3:1.

5. The solution of claim 1 wherein the siliconate compound is present in an amount of about 0.1 and 1% by

weight and the silicate compound is present in an amount of about 0.01 and 5% by weight.

6. The solution of claim 1 which further comprises a coloring principle, an agrochemical principle or both.

7. A method of treating a substrate which comprises applying the solution of claim 1 upon or within the substrate to increase hydrophobicity of the substrate or to render hydrophobic a portion of the substrate.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the substrate is one or more of sand, gravel, tree bark, sawdust, compost, earth and solid porous materials.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the solution is applied directly upon the substrate by spraying or sprinkling of the solution thereon.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the solution is mixed with substrate forming components to form a pretreated mixture and the pretreated mixture is deposited to form the hydrophobic portion of the substrate.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein the siliconate compound is present in the treated substrate in an amount of between about 2 and 60 Kg per hectare, and the silicate compound is present in the treated substrate in an amount of between about 2 and 150 Kg per hectare.

12. The method of claim 7 wherein the siliconate compound is an alkali metal alkyl siliconate and the

silicate compound is an alkali metal silicate, with the silicate and siliconate compounds being present in a molar ratio of about 0.5:1 to 10:1.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein the siliconate compound is a alkali metal methyl siliconate and the silicate compound is an sodium or potassium hydrosoluble silicate, with the silicate and siliconate compounds being present in a molar ratio of about 1:1 to 5:1.

14. The method of claim 7 wherein the siliconate compound is a sodium or potassium methyl siliconate and the silicate compound is an sodium or potassium ortho or meta-silicate, with the silicate and siliconate compounds being present in a molar ratio of about 2:1 to 3:1.

15. The method of claim 7 wherein the siliconate compound is present in an amount of about 0.1 and 1% by weight and the silicate compound is present in an amount of about 0.01 and 5% by weight.

16. The method of claim 7 wherein the solution further comprises a coloring principle, an agrochemical principle or both.